



News Release

STATE OF MARYLAND

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ANNUAL DIVISION OF CORRECTION TUG OF WAR FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS IS TUESDAY, MAY 27

Colorful event preceded by Torch Run at 9 a.m.

TOWSON, MD (May 21, 2008)--- Once again, dedicated correctional officers and other public safety employees will raise money for Special Olympics Maryland during the colorful **Division of Correction Torch Run, Walk, and Tug of War for Special Olympics on Tuesday, May 27 at the Jessup DOC Range**. This event draws several hundred correctional officers and law enforcers from across the state, and is a major annual fundraiser for Special Olympics Maryland. Since 1993, dedicated correctional officers and other Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) employees have raised more than \$235,000 for Special Olympics.

DOC involvement with Special Olympics began with participation in the Law Enforcement Officers' Torch Run in 1990, collecting a grand total of \$184. In 2000, the Commissioner of Correction began the Tug of War, creating a larger and more colorful event. In recent years, participants have raised more than \$15,000 thanks to the event and related shirt and hat sales.

Before this year's Tug of War, at around 9:00 a.m., runners will carry the Special Olympics torch through the Jessup area, then hand over the "Flame of Hope" to walkers, who will finish the trip around the prison complex.

Then, at approximately 11:00 a.m. comes the Tug of War, which is just that: an actual rope pulling competition consisting of teams from many Division of Correction prisons, other Public Safety agencies, and law enforcement agencies from across Maryland. Throughout the day, Special Olympians who will be "commissioned" as Honorary Correctional Officers, will be on hand to root the teams on.

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Directions: Maryland route 175 to Brock Bridge Road. Follow Brock Bridge to the first intersection, which is Toulson Road, and turn right. DOC personnel will be on hand to direct you to the range.

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